

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. CRUI/0020 (MRKS/0093)

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 4, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 4, 2005. Claims 1, 4-12, 15-29, 32-33, 37-38, and 47-64 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 49-64

According to the Examiner, newly submitted claims 49-64 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 49-64.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 37, 38, 47, and 48 as being unpatentable over *Evans* (U.S. 6,409,175) in view of *Blose* (U.S. 4,822,081). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 47 and Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 37, 38, and 48.

As amended, claim 1 includes the limitation of an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular elongates axially and the second tubular contracts axially while the coupling is diametrically expanded. As amended, claim 47 includes the limitation of a groove and a nose configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a first axial distance and in the post expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a smaller second axial distance. Neither *Evans* nor *Blose* disclose the first tubular elongating axially and the second tubular contracting axially upon expansion of the connection. Further, neither *Evans* nor *Blose* disclose a groove and a nose configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from

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the groove at a first axial distance and in the post-expanded relative position the nose is spaced apart from the groove at a smaller second axial distance. Rather, *Evans* clearly shows in Figure 10a that there is no axial separation between a nose (34a) and a groove (39a). In other words, the nose (34a) disclosed in *Evans* is abutted against the groove (39a) in a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position. *Blose* on the other hand does not even disclose a groove and a nose in a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position.

Claims 37, 38, and 48 include the limitation of a sealing member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material. As correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 4 of the office action, both *Evans* and *Blose* fail to disclose an elastomer that is capable of swelling when applied with fluid.

For the reasons set forth above, neither *Evans* and/nor *Blose* render claims 1, 37, 38, 47 and 48 obvious. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1, 37, 38, 47 and 48 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, claims 4-12, 15-29, and 32-33 depend from claim 1 and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 37, and 48 as being unpatentable over *Evans* and *Blose* as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of *Kramer* (U.S. 3,915,460). In response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 37, and 48.

As set forth above, *Evans* and/or *Blose* fail to teach or suggest all the limitations in claim 1. *Kramer* also fails to teach or suggest all the limitations in claim 1.

As amended, claims 37 and 48 include the limitation of a first seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material and a second seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a different selected material. *Evans* and/or *Blose* and/or *Kramer* does not disclose a first seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a selected material and a second seal member capable of swelling upon contact with a different selected material. In contrast, *Kramer* discloses an elastomer ring that absorbs a single selected material (hydrocarbons) and swells. Additionally, as correctly indicated by the Examiner in section 4 of the office action, both *Evans* and *Blose* fail to disclose an elastomer that is capable of swelling when applied with fluid. For these

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reasons, neither *Evans* and/nor *Blose* and/nor *Kramer* render claims 1, 37, and 48 obvious. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1, 37, and 48 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection. Additionally, claims 16, 18, 20, 25, and 27-29 depend from claim 1 and they are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements

A supplemental information disclosure statement (SIDS) and PTO Form 1449 were filed with the USPTO on February 18, 2004 and on February 20, 2004 and on December 6, 2004. However, our records indicate that the references cited on each PTO Form 1449 have not been considered by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the references cited on each PTO Form 1449. For convenience, a copy of each PTO Form 1449 is attached to the response.

New Claims

Claims 65-82 have been added to more clearly define aspects of the present invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants believe that claims 65-79 are directed toward the elected invention and respectfully request prosecution thereof. Additionally, Applicants believe that the references cited by the Examiner neither alone or in combination teach or disclose a recess and an end portion configured to have a pre-expanded relative position and a post-expanded relative position, whereby in the pre-expanded relative position the end portion is spaced apart from the recess at a first axial distance and in the post-expanded relative position the end portion is spaced apart from the recess at a smaller second axial distance, as recited in claims 65-78. Applicants therefore submit that claims 65-78 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Furthermore, claims 79-82 depend from claim 37 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 37.

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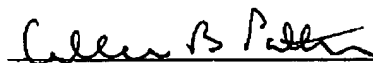
Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicants believe that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | Application Number | 10/613,347 |
| | Filing Date | July 3, 2003 |
| | First Named Inventor | Neil A. A. Simpson |
| | Group Art Unit | 3679 |
| | Examiner Name | Eric K. Nicholson |
| | Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0093 |
| Sheet 1 of 2 | Submission Date | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials ¹ | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | A1 | US-5,360,240 | 11-01-1994 | Mott | |
| | A2 | | | | |
| | A3 | US- | | | |
| | A4 | US- | | | |
| | A5 | US- | | | |
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| | A7 | US- | | | |
| | A8 | US- | | | |
| | A9 | US- | | | |
| | A10 | US- | | | |
| | A11 | US- | | | |
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| | A13 | US- | | | |
| | A14 | US- | | | |
| | A15 | US- | | | |
| | A16 | US- | | | |
| | A17 | US- | | | |

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| | | Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | | | | |
| | B1 | WO 03/078882 | 09-25-2003 | Hashem | | |
| | B2 | WO 03/036012 | 05-01-2003 | Sivley | | |
| | B3 | WO 03/032331 | 04-17-2003 | Sivley | | |
| | B4 | WO 02/075197 | 09-26-2002 | Delange et al. | | |
| | B5 | EP 1 106 778 | 06-13-2001 | Sivley et al. | | |
| | B6 | UK 706,342 | 03-31-1954 | Marskell | | |

Examiner

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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Application Number | 10/613,341 |
| | | Filing Date | July 3, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Neil A. A. Simpson |
| | | Group Art Unit | 5149 |
| | | Examiner Name | Unknown |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0093 |
| Sheet 1 | of 2 | Submission Date | February ____, 2004 |

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
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| | B16 | GB 2 089 529 A | 12/08/1982 | McGregor | | |
| | B17 | GB 2 161 569 A | 07/02/1985 | Rumert | | |

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Filing Date | July 3, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Neil A. A. Simpson |
| | | Group Art Unit | 5149 |
| | | Examiner Name | Unknown |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | MRKS/0093 |
| Sheet 2 | of 2 | Submission Date | February ____, 2004 |

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| | C2 | GB 0215668.5 Search Report | |
| | C3 | GB 0222321.2 Search Report | |
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| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | Application Number | 10/613,341 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | Filing Date | July 3, 2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Nell A. A. Simpson |
| | | Group Art Unit | 3679 |
| | | Examiner Name | Eric K. Nicholson |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | CRUI/0020 |
| Sheet 1 | of 1 | Submission Date | December 6, 2004 |

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| | A8 | US- | | | |
| | A9 | US- | | | |
| | A10 | US- | | | |
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| | A16 | US- | | | |
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| | A18 | US- | | | |

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